Appl. No. New – (National Phase of PCT/JP03/01205)

International filing date: February 5, 2003

Attorney Docket No. DK-US020066

Preliminary Amendment dated July 16, 2004

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of

claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of determining determining method

that performs a determination with regard to reusability of refrigerant using

equipment (10, 11) or refrigerant lines (9), the method comprising the steps of:

(a) applying a first step in which residual material that remains inside the

refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or the refrigerant lines (9) is applied to a check

tool (30); and

(b) performing a second step in which a determination with regard to

reusability of the refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or the refrigerant lines (9) is

performed based upon a color of the check tool (30) on which the residual material

was applied.

2. (Currently amended) The method of determining the reusability of

refrigerant using equipment or refrigerant lines disclosed in claim 1, wherein

the check tool (30) includes a first means (33) on which the residual material

will be applied, and second means (31, 32) that display a reference color that is a

determination reference;

the residual material is applied to the first means (33) in the first step in step

(a); and

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a color of the first means (33) is compared to the reference color of the second

means (31, 32) to perform the determination in the second step in step (b).

3 (Currently amended) The method of determining the reusability of

refrigerant using equipment or refrigerant lines disclosed in claim 2, wherein

the second means (31, 32) of the check tool (30) displays a plurality of

reference colors.

4. (Currently amended) The method of determining the reusability of

refrigerant using equipment or refrigerant lines disclosed in claim 3, wherein

the second means (31, 32) of the check tool (30) displays a normal color that

indicates that cleaning is unnecessary when using the refrigerant using equipment (10,

11) or the refrigerant lines (9), and a boundary color that indicates a boundary at

which cleaning is necessary when using the refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or

the refrigerant lines (9).

5. (Currently amended) The method of determining the reusability of

refrigerant using equipment or refrigerant lines disclosed in claim 3, wherein

the second means of the check tool displays a first boundary color that is a

reference for determining whether or not there is a need to clean the refrigerant using

equipment (10, 11) or the refrigerant lines (9), and the second boundary color is a

reference for determining whether or not it is possible to use the refrigerant using

equipment (10, 11) or the refrigerant lines (9).

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6. (Currently amended) A check tool (30) that is used with the method of

determining the reusability of the refrigerant using equipment (10, 11) or the

refrigerant lines (9) disclosed in claim 2 any of claims 2 to 5, comprising: wherein

the first means (33) and the second means (31, 32) are disposed near each

other and are unitary.

7. (Original) The method of determining the reusability of refrigerant

using equipment or refrigerant lines disclosed in claim 1, wherein

the check tool is a pH analysis tool that changes color by means of an acid or

an alkali;

the residual material is applied to the pH analysis tool in the first step in step

(a); and

in the second step, the degree of degradation of the residual material is

estimated from the color of the pH analysis tool to perform the determination in step

<u>(b)</u>.